

REMARKS

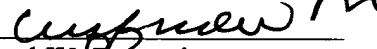
In the final Office Action mailed December 16, 2004, claims 81-84 and 87-82 were objected to because of the noted formality in paragraph 1 of that final Office Action. Appropriate correction has been made in accordance with the Examiner's requirement.

In the final Office Action, claims 77-96 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. patent to Tolle, and claims 77, 80/77-92/77, and 95/77 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by WO97/11246 to Och, published on March 27, 1997.

By the foregoing proposed amendments under Rule 116, the Examiner will immediately notice that Applicants have copied language out of the preamble and inserted it into the elements of the claim such that now each independent claim 77, 78 and 79 recite as their first element "a securing device (10) affixed to a washing machine, a dish washer or a drier," which element is not found in either of the two references cited by the Examiner to reject the claims of the present application under Section 102. Because the Applicants have taken the additional limitation language directly from the preamble to the claim, Applicants believe that the proposed amendments are enterable under Rule 116, and would not require a further search or further consideration by the Examiner. Indeed, the Examiner's own comments in numbered paragraph 3 of the final Office Action suggests to the Applicants that the limitations added to the independent claims set forth above would in fact distinguish the present claims over the two §102 references.

By reason of the fact that the Applicant has also addressed satisfactorily the claim objections identified in numbered paragraph 1 of the final Office Action, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments under Rule 116, reconsideration of the present application in light thereof, and in light of the foregoing remarks, and then allowance of amended claims 77-96 over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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